



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
December 3, 2018**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Clerk
Erik Hanberg,
Tim Reid
Jessie K. Baines, Jr.

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 5, 2018

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg and approved unanimously.

DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Shon Sylvia stated that this legislative agenda would sets the foundation for the 19/20 biennium. Staff is hoping that following this discussion the agenda will come to the Board for formal approval on December 10th.

Joe Brady distributed a draft legislative agenda. Within the area of Washington State, the district plans to explore several policy initiatives including parks and recreation funding by supporting the 1 percent cap on year over year property tax collections up to the rate of inflation. The district will also support WRPA efforts to study and identify flexible operating revenues for local parks and recreation agencies. In addition, homelessness will be another area the district will focus on during 19-20. Mr. Brady commented that MPT will support the City in seeking new funding opportunities and leverage possible strategies in utilizing local housing trust funds, modifying the real estate excise taxes, and other opportunities to enhance the construction of affordable housing. Mr. Brady proposed that MPT will support City efforts to seek legislation or a budget authorization to increase funding for DOT to work with local governments in rapid responses to address WSDOT right of way cleanups. Staff noted that there are hundreds of encampments on WSDOT properties and MPT will coordinate with other concerned local agencies across the state to seek solutions to address this issue. Furthermore, MPT will track and support policies focused around local agencies authority to change and enforce policies addressing allowing or disallowing encampments on park properties, and address inconsistent policies and procedures between MPT and the City of Tacoma.

Youth Education and Programming will also be an area of emphasis. MPT is working with the school district to expand low-barrier education youth programming to all of Tacoma's residents. This work is in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) and is critical to implementing the whole child initiative and improving community cohesion and educational outcomes. Staff is recommending that MPT fully supports our education partners and urge the legislature to rectify this situation and fully fund our state's urban schools districts including Tacoma Public Schools. In addition, MPT is suggesting opposition any effort to sweep these funds out of the PSTAA. MPT also supports an effort to expand the use of these funds to program endowments and capital expenditures.

Within the area Environmental Conservation, Health and Safety the District is planning to support state and federal grants to ensure the water inspection program stays whole as the program is in jeopardy due to federal cuts. Limiting single use plastics remains on the district's radar. MPT will be uniting with a broad coalition to advance state-wide legislation proposed in the January session banning plastic bags and other plastic items known to threaten ocean wildlife.

Mr. Brady commented that last session, MPT successfully passed a bill through the House of Representatives that would align our agency's commissioner per diem reimbursements in line with the complexity of their duties to oversee a \$160M/biennium agency. This bill raises the ceiling on the number of days a year an MPT commissioner could be reimbursed for their time. MPT will encourage the Legislature to recognize that MPT Commissioners govern a unique agency in Washington and support legislation that allows for proper compensation while still staying in alignment with the OFM procedures. Commissioner Hanberg indicated that he is in opposition to supporting this legislation.

The Capital Budget remains a critical funding source for parks and recreation projects across the state and in Tacoma. To that end, the district is recommending support of WWRP, YAF and Aquatic lands. The district will also seek support of the district's capital budget for local parks acquisition and development for the South East /Central Tacoma. In partnership with FWDA, State capital dollars will also be sought for investment at for parks on the Foss. Staff commented that similar to years past, MPT will continue to support fully funding salmon enhancement grants including restoration of Titlow Lagoon

Federal Policy initiatives include continuing the support the Red Wolf recover Program, Save Our Sound effort, Aquarium Conservation Partnership, re-introduction for grizzly bears in the North Cascades, banning sale and imports of shark fins, and protection of the Endangered Species Act in its current form. The District also plans to support the following program initiatives: USDA Summer Meals Program, legislation to permanently reauthorize the New Markets Tax credit Program, restoring and increasing Adaptive Sports Grants from the VA, and climate resiliency

OTHER

There was Board conversation about the possibility of exploring nonprofit rates for venue rentals.

Board members requested that staff take a look at the recording studio fees at ESCC.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:

Jennifer Bowman, Secretary